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# Economic and Social Council

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**Substantive session of 2008**
New York, 30 June-25 July 2008
Agenda item 7 (c)
**Coordination, programme and other questions: international cooperation in the field of informatics**

**Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Jean-Marc Hoscheit (Luxembourg), on the basis of informal consultations**

## The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

*The Economic and Social Council,*

*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics[1] and the initiatives of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics,

*Recognizing* the interest of Member States in taking full advantage of information and communications technologies for the acceleration of economic and social development,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and access by all States, with due regard to all the official languages,[2]

*Welcoming* the intensification of efforts by the Information Technology Services Division of the Department of Management of the Secretariat to provide interconnectivity and unhindered Internet access to all Permanent and Observer Missions at the United Nations,

1. *Reiterates* once again the high priority that it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for Member States of the United

[1] E/2008/65.

[2] Resolutions 1991/70 of 26 July 1991, 1992/60 of 31 July 1992, 1993/56 of 29 July 1993, 1994/46 of 29 July 1994, 1995/61 of 28 July 1995, 1996/35 of 25 July 1996, 1997/1 of 18 July 1997, 1998/29 of 29 July 1998, 1999/58 of 30 July 1999, 2000/28 of 28 July 2000, 2001/24 of 26 July 2001, 2002/35 of 26 July 2002, 2003/48 of 24 July 2003, 2004/51 of 23 July 2004, 2005/12 of 22 July 2005, 2006/35 of 27 July 2006 and 2007/14 of 26 July 2007.

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Nations and Observers, as well as non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations, to the computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations, provided that the unhindered access of non-governmental organizations to such databases, systems and services will not prejudice the access of Member States nor impose an additional financial burden for their use;

2. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources, the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on this item, to facilitate the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology and to continue the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives and, in that regard, requests the Working Group to continue its efforts to act as a bridge between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat, and also requests the Working Group to consider its future role, status and mandate and develop findings in that regard;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretariat for the continuing cooperation it is extending to the Working Group in the endeavour to further improve the information technology services available to all Permanent and Observer Missions at the United Nations and, in particular, for upgrading and stabilizing the e-mail services for delegates and for upgrading web-based services, such as the CandiWeb elections and candidatures site, as well as many Mission websites implementing the CandiWeb elections and candidatures website, a cooperative effort of the Secretariat and the diplomatic community coordinated by the Working Group;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Working Group and to give priority to implementing its recommendations and guidance, particularly with regard to the establishment of a Member State web portal to consolidate and simplify the secure access by authorized representatives of Member States to relevant information;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009 on action taken in follow-up to the present resolution, including the findings of the Working Group and an assessment of its work and mandate.